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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Sectoral policy questions

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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

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Letter dated 4 November 1999 from the representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We hereby have the honour to enclose the text of the Moscow Declaration of heads of States Parties to the Treaty on the Customs Union and Unified Economic Space, signed by the Presidents of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan in Moscow on 26 October 1999 (see annex).

We should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 39, 98, 100, 105 and 161.

(*Signed*) A. **Sychov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations

(*Signed*) E. **Kazykhanov**
Acting Chargé d'affaires of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) E. **Ibraimova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) V. **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

(*Signed*) R. **Alimov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations

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Annex

Moscow Declaration of the heads of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Customs Union and Unified Economic Space, signed in Moscow on 26 October 1999

We, the heads of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Customs Union and Unified Economic Space of 26 February 1999,

Motivated by the common desire to broaden and deepen multilateral cooperation on the basis of the provisions laid out in the Treaty,

Seeking, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, to provide a new impetus to mutually advantageous cooperation based on equal rights,

Declare as follows:

The basic aim of integration of our countries at the present stage is to complete the creation of a Customs Union as a prerequisite for boosting our national economies, raising the standard of living of our peoples and achieving sustainable democratic development.

It is our common belief that despite the objective difficulties of the processes of integration and the negative impact of the global financial crisis, positive economic results have been achieved in the framework of the Customs Union. Joint actions by the States Parties to promote trade and economic cooperation and overcome the consequences of the financial and economic crisis have been agreed, the foundations for joint customs tariffs have been laid, and measures to strengthen cooperation between national monetary and financial systems have been defined. The creation of a unified legal space has begun, and directions for the convergence and harmonization of legislation have been determined. Numerous social and humanitarian issues are being resolved in the context of realizing the "ten simple steps for ordinary people" programme.

We are determined to carry out the priority tasks for the advancement of integration processes in the short term, with a view to achieving:

- The effective functioning of a common market for goods, services, capital and labour;
- The creation of conditions for steady progress in restructuring the economies of our States;
- The application of an agreed tax, monetary and credit, currency and financial, trade, customs and tariff policy;
- The development of unified transport, energy, information and legal systems;
- The elaboration of a range of agreed measures of State support for the development of priority economic sectors, and of cooperation in industry, science and technology.

The activities of the Customs Union to resolve key economic problems confirm the effectiveness of integration, at different rates, in the framework of regional associations and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a whole.

We are in agreement that further development of the processes of integration in the framework of the Customs Union depends on political and economic stability in the States Parties. Accordingly, we oppose all forms and manifestations of international terrorism and

political and religious extremism which threaten the security of our societies and of the citizens of our countries.

We are convinced that efforts to create a unified economic space in the Customs Union will continue to receive the full support of the peoples of our States Parties and will accelerate economic stabilization and the improvement in the standard of living of our citizens.

Membership of the Union is open to any State of the CIS which acknowledges the principles of the Union and is prepared to fully assume the obligations emanating from the agreed instruments.

(*Signed*) A. **Lukashenka**
President of the Republic of Belarus

(*Signed*) N. **Nazarbaev**
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) A. **Akayev**
President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

(*Signed*) B. **Yeltsin**
President of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) E. **Rakhmonov**
President of the Republic of Tajikistan